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KOHN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC
30500 NORTHWESTERN HWY.
SUITE 410
FARMINGTON HILLS MI 48334-3179

MAILED

SEP 13 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 6,132,432	:	
Issue Date: 10/17/2000	:	
Application Number: 09/280,283	:	LETTER
Filing Date: 03/29/1999	:	
Attorney Docket Number:	:	
0123.00017	:	

This is a communication in reference to the letter styled as a petition filed on July 20, 2011, concerning the expiration of the above-identified patent.

The Office can neither grant nor deny the petition because it is not accompanied by payment of the requisite petition fee and maintenance fee. Any petition to accept delayed payment of a maintenance fee must be accompanied by the required maintenance fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g) and the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(i)(1) or (2).¹ Patent and Trademark fees and charges payable to the Patent and Trademark Office are required to be paid in advance, that is, at the time of requesting any action by the Office for which a fee or charge is payable.² As such, the petition fee is a prerequisite to the filing of the present petition, and the Office will not reach the merits of the petition unless and until the petition fee is submitted.

¹See MPEP 2580 and 37 CFR 1.378(b) and (c).

²37 CFR 1.22(a).

In this regard, on September 7, 2011, counsel's deposit account, No. 11-1449, contained a balance of \$958.00, which is insufficient to charge both the second maintenance fee (small entity) of \$1,240.00 and the surcharge after expiration of 700.00.

37 CFR 1.25(a) states, in pertinent part, that an amount sufficient to cover all fees, services, copies, etc., requested must always be on deposit. Charges to accounts with insufficient funds will not be accepted.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
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By FAX: (571) 273-8300
 Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Customer Service Window
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 Randolph Building
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A reply may also be filed via the EFS-Web system of the USPTO.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at 571-272-3231.



Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions